

Governor Thomas Bibb Home  
Belle Mina, Alabama

*Limestone Co.*

HABS No. 16-303

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42-BELMI

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District No. 16

Historic American Buildings Survey  
E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer  
Ala. Polytechnic Inst., Auburn, Ala.

GOVERNOR THOMAS BIBB HOUSE  
Belle Mina, Limestone County, Alabama.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

This plantation house has a front portico with six widely spaced Doric columns. The one storey wing, consisting of slave quarters and kitchen, is joined to the side of the house. In Alabama these are usually separated from the main house and lie off to the rear.

The slave quarters and connecting colonnade are of unusual design and suggest the island type of architecture.

A brick wall originally surrounded the plantation house, but has disappeared. The fireplace mantels and the interior trim show handplowed mouldings, done by the slave labor of the time.

Source of Material:

E. Walter Burkhardt, District Administrator, HABS.  
Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Alabama.

(Revised at HABS Headquarters  
February 1936 - H.C.F.)

(Original sheet in field notebook).

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HISTORICAL DATA:

Built before 1820.  
No record of architect.

Ownership:

Governor Thomas Bibb, built this house and probably designed it also.

Bradley Bibb, a descendant of Governor Bibb, now owns and occupies the house.

Thomas Bibb:

Second governor of the State of Alabama. The brother of William Bibb, only governor of the Alabama Territory and first governor of the State of Alabama. In 1820, Governor William Bibb died of injuries received in a fall from a horse. Thomas Bibb succeeded to the office of his brother.

Civil War Period:

This house was occupied by Federal soldiers during the War between the States. At this time some damage was done to the property.

This home was the scene of many festivities and parties and the owner's hospitality was known for miles around.

Source of Material:

Eugene Knight of the measuring force.  
Bradley Bibb, now owner and occupant of home.  
Mrs. George Duncan, great-granddaughter of Governor Bibb, of Athens, Alabama.

*Reviewed 1936, H.C.F.*